Application Serial No. 09/925,728 Office Action mailed April 8, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of promoting regeneration of surface cartilage of a joint, comprising:

covering an area of damaged cartilage of a joint to be treated with a patch consisting essentially of a multi layer sheet of collagen membrane material, wherein said multi layer sheet of collagen membrane material is comprised of at least one barrier layer which acts as a barrier to inhibit passage of cells therethrough, wherein said at least one barrier layer has a thickness of about 0.2-2mm and has a structure consisting essentially of collagen I, collagen III or mixtures thereof, wherein said sheet of collagen membrane material further comprises a matrix layer having a thickness of about 0.2-12mm and having a matrix structure which consists essentially of collagen II having an open sponge like texture; wherein said barrier layer has at least one smooth face so as to inhibit cell adhesion thereon, said barrier layer further having a fibrous face opposite said smooth face, wherein said matrix layer is adhered to said fibrous face;

fixing the patch over said area with the at least one said barrier layer oriented away from the damaged area, and said matrix layer with a mixture structure consisting essentially of collagen II oriented toward the damaged area wherein said patch is fixed over the damaged area without application of a separate hemostatic barrier layer in said area; and

allowing said area to regenerate cartilage.

- 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said barrier layer, said matrix layer or both, are impregnated with glycosaminoglycan.
- 3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the glycosaminoglycan is hyaluronic acid, chondroitin 6 sulphate, keratin sulphate or dermatan sulphate.
- 4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the patch is fixed over the area to be treated by adhesively bonding the patch to cartilage surrounding said area to be treated.
- 5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the patch is fixed over the area to be treated by suturing the patch to cartilage surrounding said area to be treated.
- 6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said membrane material carries at least one pharmaceutically or biologically active substance or mesenchymal stem cells having ability to differentiate into cells to regenerate cartilage or bone.
- 7. (Original) The method of claim 6 in which the pharmaceutically active substance is selected from the group consisting Taurolidine, Taurultam and a mixture thereof.
- 8. (Original) The method of claim 6 in which the pharmaceutically active substance is selected from the group consisting of cell growth promoting hormones, bone morphogenetic proteins (BMPs), other skeletal matrix molecules, and signaling peptides.
- 9. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the pharmaceutically active substance is selected from the group consisting of BMP-2, BMP-3, BMP-4, BMP-7, BMP-8, OP-1, PTH, TGF-, TGF-1, VEGF, CIP, IGF, PTHrP, PDGF and mixtures thereof.

- 10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said membrane material carries articular cartilage stem cells or bone stem cells.
- 11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said membrane material carries bone marrow stromal cells.

12. (Canceled)

- 13. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising implanting a resorbable bone mineral implant material into a region of bone injury in the area to be treated, prior to fixing said patch over said area to be treated.
- 14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said bone mineral is charged with chondrocytes.
- 15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said patch is charged with chondrocytes.
- 16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said patch is comprised of a single barrier layer.
- 17. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said patch comprises said matrix layer sandwiched between one said barrier layer and a second said barrier layer.
- 18. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the matrix layer is provided by collagen II material derived from natural cartilage.
- 19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the collagen II material is derived from hyaline cartilage from pigs.

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- 20. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the collagen II material is physically cross linked.
 - 21. (Canceled)
- 22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one barrier layer is derived from peritoneum membrane from calves or pigs.
 - 23. (Canceled)
 - 24. (Canceled)